Approved for Release: 2018/09/20 C05861527

Department of State

STATE 65403

TELEGRAM

EO 13526 3.3(b)(1)>25Yrs

INCOMING AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

SECRET

Classification

CN:

R 241455Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO RUEHCR/AMEMBASSY ASUNCION 4518
RUEHCR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 5460
RUEHCR/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 5951
RUEHCR/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ 1943
RUEHCR/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO 5193
RUEHCR/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO 8522
BT

Roger Channel Designation Removed by Authority of INR/C Memo of Sept. 30, 1994

DATE: 77 MAR 25 9:07

Noted

S E C R E T STATE 065403

ROGER CHANNEL

874

ACTION COPY
By:
Date: 3/25

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: SHUM, PINS, PINR
SUBJECT: OPERATION CONDOR

1. THE CIA HAS PREPARED THE FOLLOWING SUMMARY OF THE STATUS OF OPERATION CONDOR AS OF MARCH 1977 WHICH WE ARE PASSING FOR YOUR INFORMATION ONLY.

2. QTE: OPERATION CONDOR IS A COOPERATIVE EFFORT BY SECURITY SERVICES OF CHILE, ARGENTINA, URUGUAY, PARAGUAY, BOLIVIA AND BRAZIL TO COUNTER TERRORISM AND SUBVERSION. AS IT WAS FIRST ENVISAGED, THE OPERATION WAS TO BRING ABOUT AN EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AMONG THE PARTICIPATING SERVICES ON SUBVERSIVE GROUPS, BUT LATER DISCUSSIONS INCLUDED CONSIDERATION OF MOUNTING ASSASSINATION OPERATIONS ABROAD. SECURITY SERVICES OF CHILE, ARGENTINA AND URUGUAY AGREED TO SEND TEAMS TO EUROPE, BUT APPARENTLY BRAZIL, BOLIVIA AND PARAGUAY DID NOT COMMIT THEMSELVES TO THIS ASPECT OF THE OPERATION. A TRAINING COURSE WAS LATER SET UP IN BUENOS AIRES FOR THE TEAMS THAT WERE TO BE SENT TO EUROPE, AND ACCORDING TO ONE REPORT A CONDOR TEAM OF URUGUAYANS AND ARGENTINES WAS SENT TO PARIS IN EARLY DECEMBER 1976 TO OPERATE AGAINST URUGUAYAN TERRORISTS. THIS TEAM WAS UNSUCCESSFUL IN CARRYING OUT ITS OBJECTIVE AND ITS FAILURE WAS ATTRIBUTED TO THE OPERATION HAVING BEEN LEAKED TO THE TERRORISTS. AS A RESULT OF THE SUPPOSED LEAK, THE URUGUAYANS WERE HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT THE DESIRABILITY OF PARTICIPATING IN FURTHER JOINT CONDOR OPERATIONS.

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3. ACCORDING TO ONE REPORT [redacted] THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CONDOR OPERATION OUTSIDE OF CONDOR COUNTRIES ARE CONFINED TO THE COLLECTION OF INFORMATION ON EXTREMISTS. THE [redacted] REPORT SAID THAT IF INFORMATION IS OBTAINED REVEALING THE WHEREABOUTS OF AN EXTREMIST ABROAD, A CONDOR TEAM MIGHT BE SENT TO THE LOCATION, BUT ONLY TO VERIFY THE EXTREMIST'S PRESENCE AND TO DETERMINE HIS FUTURE TRAVEL. IF UNSPECIFIED ACTIONS AGAINST A PARTICULAR EXTREMIST WERE DESIRED, THE CONDOR SERVICE WOULD ASK A SECURITY SERVICE OF THE COUNTRY WHERE THE EXTREMIST RESIDES TO CARRY OUT THESE ACTIONS. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT ACCORDING TO ONE REPORT, ONCE A CONDOR COUNTRY REFUSES TO PARTICIPATE IN A CONDOR PROGRAM,

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THAT COUNTRY IS NO LONGER INCLUDED IN FURTHER DISCUSSIONS RELATED TO THIS PROGRAM.

4. RECENT REPORTING SUGGESTS THAT THE CONDOR OPERATION MAY BE SHIFTING MORE TO NON-VIOLENT ACTIVITIES. AT A MEETING OF CONDOR IN DECEMBER 1976 THE PRINCIPAL SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION WAS THE PLANNING OF COORDINATED PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE OPERATIONS AGAINST LEFTIST AND RADICAL GROUPS. SOMETIME EARLIER A PROGRAM HAD BEEN APPROVED WHEREBY ONE MEMBER COUNTRY WOULD PUBLISH PROPAGANDA USEFUL TO ANOTHER MEMBER SO THE COUNTRY OF MAJOR INTEREST WOULD NOT BE REVEALED AS THE SOURCE. EXTENSIVE USE WAS TO BE MADE OF THE COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA IN CARRYING OUT THIS PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE PROGRAM. ANOTHER CONDOR MEETING IS TO BE HELD DURING MARCH WHICH MAY CLARIFY THE FUTURE DIRECTION OF THE OPERATION. END QUOTE.

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